



Ambassador Jeffrey L. Bleich – Barrow Island

Remarks for Carbon Capture & Sequestration Event Barrow Island, Western Australia

(As prepared for delivery – October 9, 2010)

Madame Prime Minister, thank you for giving me the opportunity to say a few words today. Roy and Colin, thank you for hosting us today.

For years, governments, energy companies, and politicians have talked about reducing carbon emissions. But until now, actual sequestration of greenhouse gases has been a dream of scientists; just as converting hot air from public officials into something useful has long been the dream of many voters. But today we realized both dreams. This joint effort by governments and industry shows what can be accomplished when we work together to solve one of the world's most pressing problems. Recognition by the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum of Chevron's Gorgon CO₂ Injection Project is proof that carbon sequestration is not a dream for the future – it is a living, breathing reality today.

Just like Australia, the U.S. has tremendous supplies of fossil fuels. But we all know we can't burn carbon-based fuels in the 21st century using 20th-century technologies. I believe that together, the U.S. and Australia will revolutionize energy technologies in the decades ahead. Because we must – climate change is a real, epic, and global challenge. The International Energy Agency estimates that CCS must deliver one-fifth of the total greenhouse gas emissions reductions we need by 2050 to avoid irreversible climate change.

The great challenge though is not merely to cut greenhouse gases, but to make these reductions at the same time that we deliver more energy around the world to meet the needs of all people. The U.S. State Department's grant to the Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute will allow it to facilitate deployment of CCS technologies in developing countries and help them access affordable energy.

The U.S. is committed to advancing CCS technologies to the point where 8 to 10 years from now these systems will be affordable and deployed worldwide. Chevron's efforts in conjunction with the Australian Government here at Gorgon and the work of the Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute prove that we can reach that goal.

As we like to say back in the States – yes we can.